

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 RSR-01 /147 W

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R 241128Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9633

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3384

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO AG SP MR SS

SUBJ: ALGERIAN, MOROCCAN, AND MAURITANIAN CHIEFS OF STATE MEET AT
AGADIR

REF: RABAT 3337

1. GOA PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND GIRM PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH
ARRIVED ABOUT NOON JULY 23 IN SOUTHERN COASTAL CITY OF AGADIR
FOR TALKS ON SPANISH SAHARA WITH KING HASSAN. ACCORDING TO
SEMI-OFFICIAL MOROCCAN NEWS AGENCY (MAP) AGERIAN
DELEGATION INCLUDES FON MIN BOUTEFLIKA AND MIN INT MEDEGHRI,
WHILE MAURITANIAN DELEGATION INCLUDES FON MIN OULD MOUKNASS AND
MOULAY ALI CHERIFI, SEC GEN OF PRESIDENCY. TALKS BEGAN WITH
"PLENARY SESSION" AFTERNOON JULY 23, AND ARE SCHEDULED TO LAST
THROUGH JULY 24. IN SPEECH OPENING SESSION, KING ANNOUNCED HE
WOULD HEAD MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL DAILY "MAROC SOIR" OF JULY 23 CARRIES FRONT
PAGE ARTICLE WHICH PROBABLY REFLECTS POSITION GOM WILL TAKE IN
DISCUSSIONS ON SAHARA. ARTICALE SAYS THAT, ALTHOUGH GOM ACCEPTS
PRINCIPLE OF REFERENDUM IN TERRITORY (SINCE IN ANY CASE SAHARANS
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WOULD OPT TO RETURN TO "MOTHER COUNTRY"), MOROCCO WOULD EXPECT

AS "PRINCIPAL INTERESTED PARTY" TO SIT ON COMMITTEE ORGANIZING REFERENDUM. IN ADDITION MOROCCO REQUIRES AS PRIOR CONDITION FOR REFERENDUM THAT ALL SPANISH TROOPS LEAVE TERRITORY. ALL SPANISH FUNCTIONARIES BE "SET ASIDE," AND ALL "EXILES" BE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME. ARTICLE RECALLS THAT BOUMEDIENE AFFIRMED MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER "OCCUPIED PROVINCE" AT 1972 OAU MEETING IN RABAT.

E. MEETING FOLLOWS CLOSELY RECENT DELIVERY TO AFP IN NOUAKCHOTT OF COMMUNIQUE BY GROUP CALLED POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF SAGUAT, EL HAMRA AND RIO DE ORO, CREATED MAY 10, ANNOUNCING ITS FIRST "MILITARY OPERATIONS" ON MAY 20 AGAINST SPANISH FORCES. COMMUNIQUE GIVEN PROMINENT TREATMENT IN BOTH SEMI-OFFICIAL AND INDEPENDENT PRESS HERE ON JULY 21. (SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE DESCRIBES "OPERATIONS" AS DISARMING OF THREE SAHARAN SOLDIERS AT POST ON MOROCCAN-SPANISH SAHARAN FRONTIER BY FIVE SAHARANS WHO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CAPTURED).

4. SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY THAT THREE LEADERS WILL MAKE MUCH PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING UNITED POSITION ON SHARA QUESTION AND THAT COMMUNIQUE WILL SIMPLY CALL FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND END TO COLONIAL RULE. HE SPECULATED THAT BOUMEDIENE AND OULD DADDAH PROBABLY MORE ANXIOUS TO HOLD MEETING THAN KING. WHO MAY FEAR THAT NEUTRAL COMMUNIQUE WILL MAKE HIM VULNERABLE TO "DO NOTHING" CHARGE FROM OPPOSITION. HOWEVER, KING HAD APPARENTLY DECIDED TO RISK THIS CHARGE FOR GREATER GAIN OF SHOWING HIMSELF TO PEOPLE AT LARGE AS ACTIVIST STATESMAN ANXIOUS TO FURTHER NATIONS' INTEREST. SOURCE ADDED THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT COMMON POSITION HAD BEEN WORKED OUT, AND SUGGESTED THAT SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD INVOLVE CONCESSION BY KING TO ALGERIANS ON BOUNDARY QUESTION--POSSIBLY RATIFICATION OF 1972 ACCORD.
ROCKWELL

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